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Imagery analysis report

Gurdaspur-Type, Battalion-Size Barracks in India (S)

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IAR-0078/79
NOVEMBER 1979
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GURDASPUR-TYPE, BATTALION-SIZE BARRACKS IN INDIA (S)

INTRODUCTION

1. (TSR) A pattern of new and unique barracks and smaller variants was identified in India on recent [REDACTED] imagery. This expansion, modernization, and standardization identified at eight Indian ground forces installations began in late 1975. The barracks appear to be large enough to house a battalion-size unit and could contain the facilities to make the unit self-sufficient. The name—Gurdaspur-type, battalion-size barracks—has been assigned by NPIC to these structures because they were first identified at the Gurdaspur Infantry Brigade Barracks [REDACTED] and because the structures appear to be capable of housing a battalion-size unit.

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2. (TSR) These barracks were constructed at new installations or added to existing installations. All of the installations utilizing this type of barracks are in close proximity to the Pakistani, Chinese, or Bangladesh borders (Figure 1).

3. [REDACTED] This construction program by the Indian Army appears to be related to the implementation of their 1975 Key Location Plan (KLP).¹ The intent of this KLP is to reduce the Indian Army's reaction time to hostilities stemming from a one-, two-, or three-front war (Pakistan, China, and Bangladesh).² Subsequently, to more effectively defend against the possibility of a sudden attack by a neighboring country, combat units in central and southern India will have to be relocated to installations near the borders. To facilitate such a move, training units presently located near the borders will have to be moved to the interior. Combat units would then occupy the vacated installations and enlarge them if necessary. New installations would be built if existing facilities were not available.³

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BASIC DESCRIPTION

4. (TSR) The Gurdaspur-type, battalion-size barracks have been identified at eight installations. The barracks are at least four stories high and have four to eight wings divided into two groups. These two groups of wings, corridor-connected barracks, flank opposite ends of a connected messhall with attached kitchens and a connected, quadrangle-shaped support/recreation building. A quadrangle-shaped administration building is connected by corridor to one end of the support/recreation building (Figures 2 and 3).

5. (TSR) The readily identifiable variants probably house support units. In comparison to the full-size Gurdaspur-type, battalion-size barracks, the variants tend to consist of one group of barracks wings with a variation in the number of wings, a smaller support/recreation building, a smaller messhall, and an administration building (Figures 4 and 5).

6. (TSR) Four installations in Punjab State adjacent to the Pakistani border have the Gurdaspur-type, battalion-size barracks. The newly built Gurdaspur Infantry Brigade Barracks has four battalion-size barracks and three variants. The newly built Bhatinda Infantry Brigade Barracks and Storage Depot (BE [REDACTED]) has at least six full-size barracks. Both of these installations can probably house at least a brigade-size unit. Other installations adjacent to the Pakistani border but with a smaller number of barracks are the newly built Amritsar Barracks Area [REDACTED] with two full-size barracks and the older Jullundur Barracks Area Command Corps and Brigade Headquarters [REDACTED] with one barracks being added to the installation's vast facilities.

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7. (TSR) The Gurdaspur-type barracks have been added to the three older installations facing the China-backed Himalayan Range. Rishikesh Military Barracks and Storage Area [REDACTED] has one full-size and two variant barracks, Shahjahan pur Military Area and Brigade Headquarters [REDACTED] has three full-size barracks, and Bareilly Barracks School and Storage Depot Division Area Command [REDACTED] has one full-size barracks and one variant. The elements of the barracks at these three installations are not connected to one another. The layout and elements of these disjointed barracks are the same as those of the barracks at the rest of the installations (Figure 6).

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8. (TSR) Only one installation facing the Bangladesh border has the Gurdaspur-type barracks. Six variants of the Gurdaspur-type, battalion-size barracks have been added to the older Ranchi Barracks Division and Brigade Headquarters North [REDACTED]

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9. (TSR) The various elements of a Gurdaspur-type, battalion-size barracks and of the variants indicate that most of the battalion/unit's activities may be accomplished within the structures. Added self-sufficiency within the barracks area or specialization of a battalion/unit may be a follow-on phase to the construction of a barrack's area. Individual motor pools and explosives storage facilities have been observed at a few of the barracks. Some barracks have both facilities, while others have only one or neither (Figures 7 and 8).

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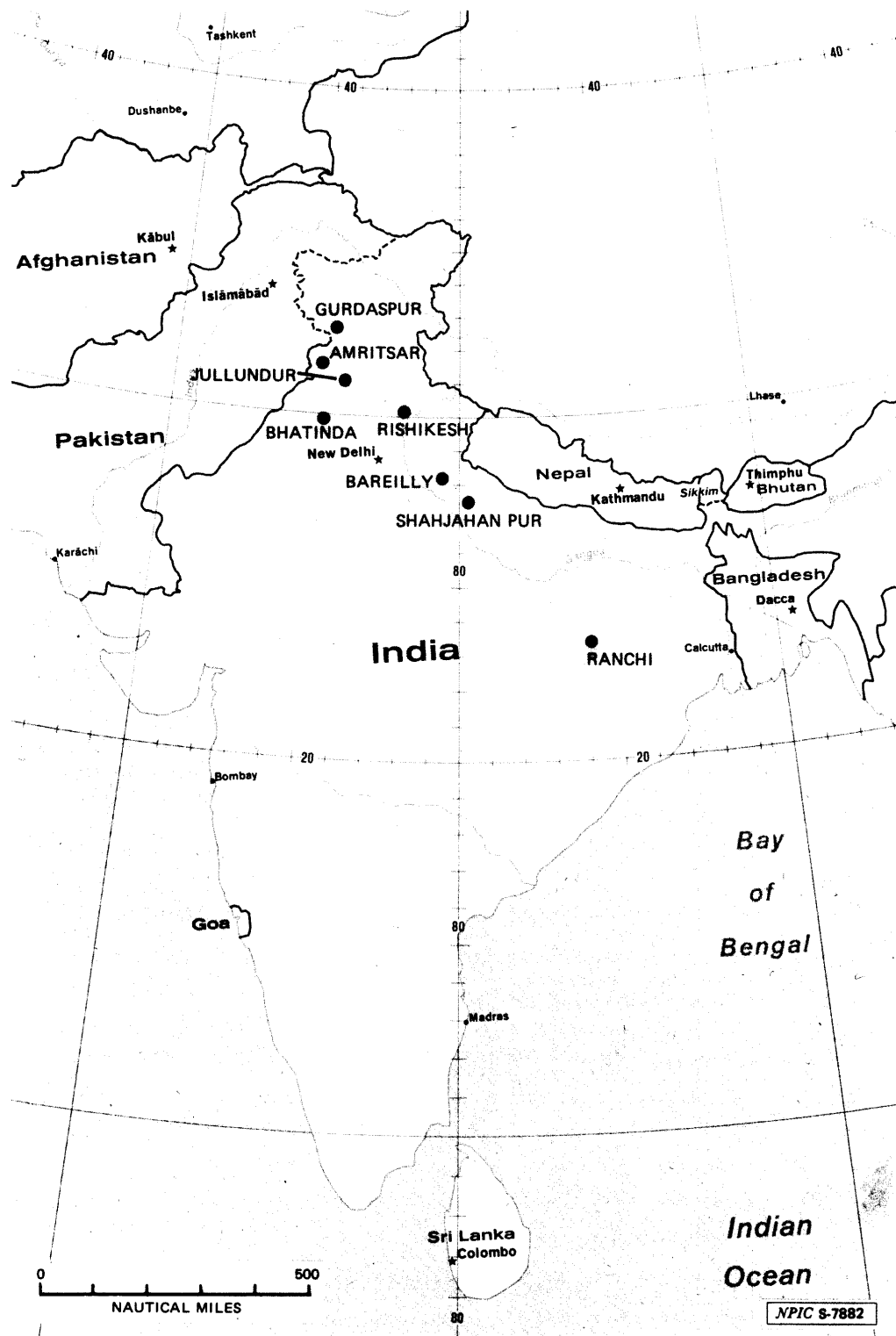


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF INSTALLATIONS WITH GURDASPUR-TYPE BATTALION-SIZE BARRACKS, INDIA

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- *Extracted Article, "Indian Army Plans to Redeploy Combat Units," pp 36-38, is classified SECRET 25X1

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to Middle 25X1
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